

PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

August 2017

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."
Philippians 1:4-5

A prayer meeting with some serious prayer:

The church in Ukraine has always practiced a stricter and more public form of church discipline than we are accustomed to in the States. I have expressed my disagreement with the harshness and tendency towards retribution that sometimes occurs. It is common for members who sin publically, to be publically chastised and placed on official church discipline. Sins involving divorce and sexual sins are often singled out. Recently three youth from our congregation were called before the church leadership, and after refusing to change their public behavior, it was announced on Sunday morning that they were rejecting the Christian values held by the church. ... But, ... it was also announced that we would hold a congregational prayer before our Wednesday night Bible study for these "erring sinners." I was leading the Wednesday night Bible study this month, and the usual attendance was less than 20 people. The plan was to have a short time of prayer in the church auditorium and then go back for our class time. A hundred people showed up and the list of people to be prayed for grew from three to seven. People wanted prayer. People had no problem standing in front of the congregation, as they wiped their tears and explain how their family had gone wrong. Fathers and old grandmothers alike, were on their knees as they wept and cried out to God for what only He could do. Each of the seven people were named and their situation was explained, (in detail) as we prayed one at a time for each of them. A little over two hours later, ... we said "amen." The next Wednesday night was the same, ... 100 people, two hours. It is our tradition, even on Sunday morning, that two or three people will prayer randomly from the congregation before the person standing behind the microphone will have the closing part of the prayer. The problem is when people want to pray



so badly that they have a problem waiting their turn. Once as we began to pray, the minister had to tell people to, "settle down, there is going to be more prayer." The next Sunday, I noticed one of the original three teenagers on the balcony with her church friends. I guess when you know the youth group and your grandparents are on their knees at church praying for you, it makes you want to be there too.

School starts back at the first of September. Remember us and our students in your prayers.

Ray and Pam Trantham:

Missionaries in Odessa, Ukraine for the past 22 years

"Training National Leaders for Ministry"

PRAY WITH US: The church in Philippi supported the Apostle Paul and were "partners" with him in his missionary activity. We thank you for your financial support and the way in which you continue to be "partners" with us in our work in Ukraine. Paul wrote to the church in Philippians 1:4-5 and said,

*"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your **partnership** in the gospel from the first day until now."*

We ask that you continue to remember us, the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia, and our missionary students.



This past week our congregation held a mixture of church camp and Vacation Bible School.



The Ukrainian version of church camp or VBS include many of the same elements as in America. Crafts and outside activities in the water are always among the favorite.



Tax-deductible contributions:
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